

cal, moral, intellectual, and commercial redemption of the State. It is, [and] has been with me a cherished idea for several years, and while I lay claim to no share of sagacity, beyond the most ordinary of my race, I foresaw that the construction of the Charlotte road to Columbia would drive our reluctant Legislature sooner or later to some great effort for North Carolina. You will observe that a convention is to be called at Salisbury in June. It was the earliest period at which the occurrence of the Courts would permit the participation of the bar in the deliberations of such a body. It will, if fully attended, and rightly conducted, exercise a most important influence on the success of the work. Let me suggest to you and our friends in the centre to respond to it warmly and promptly. Really when I look at the condition of the State, and the prospect held out to her by this greatest of State enterprizes, it does seem to me that her sons should do little else than labour until it is accomplished. I have no fears if we do not become dispirited. There is so much of fact and argument connected with the enterprize (and the difficulties to which I have referred are so much within the reach of time and wise legislation) that I have no doubt but that the sober, reflecting, intelligent, Presbyterian people will build the work. I rely on their intelligence, their virtue, for everything noble in the future welfare of the State, as all that is glorious in her past history, has been accomplished by them. Let me state to you a fact, that in the obtaining of subscriptions of stock for our Charlotte road, there was not a Presbyterian minister in this Community who did not subscribe, and who did not urge his people to do so. I have written you a long letter on this most important subject. Commit me in the glorious struggle for the good old State for any duty which I can perform, and which the absolute necessities of my situation will permit.

I will deform this letter by a single word as to the Mint. I need not say to you how many painful personal considerations make that office desirable to me at present. To ambition it has no attractions. A seat in Congress, which this district would give me with enthusiasm would be certainly more agreeable to my tastes, and be more conducive to that desire. But it is impossible that I should accept it. I must labour or be irrevocably ruined. The office at the Mint is worth \$2000 per annum, and comes in aid of my profession, which it will be my duty and my pride to pursue